

FINAL



**WEARE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
December 16, 2013**

PRESENT: TOM CLOW, CHAIRMAN; RICHARD W. BUTT, VICE CHAIRMAN; JOHN LAWTON, SELECTMAN; KEITH LACASSE, SELECTMAN

RECORDING SECRETARY: Naomi L. Bolton

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Naomi L. Bolton

GUESTS: Tina Connor, Susan Winsor, Steve Roberts, Frederick W. Hippler, Lisa Purington-Grolljahn, Betty Straw, Jan Snyder, Ike Shepard, Keith Allberg, Bill Tiffany, Robert Gordon, Janet Brown, Burt Brown, Jack Dearborn, Brett Merrill, Mandy Matheson, Wayne Hood.

Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Lacasse seconded to enter into non-public session @ 6:39 p.m. pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A:3II (b). A roll call vote was taken, Vice Chairman Butt – yes; Selectman Lawton – yes; Chairman Clow – yes, Selectman Lacasse – yes. Passed 4-0-0

The Board interviewed two potential police officer candidates.

Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Lacasse seconded to come out of non-public session @ 7:15 p.m. A roll call vote was taken, Vice Chairman Butt – yes; Selectman Lawton – yes; Chairman Clow – yes; Selectman Lacasse – yes. Passed 4-0-0

Chairman Clow called the meeting to order at 7:16 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT: (none)

MANIFESTS

Checks dated: December 12, 2013

Weekly Payroll \$45,163.72

Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Lawton seconded to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sign manifests and order the Treasurer to sign checks dated December 19, 2013. Passed 4-0-0

Accounts Payable \$577,247.09 (Weare School \$500,000)

\$ 33,531.59

Gross Payrolls \$ 48,837.96 (Includes taxes, credit union, police detail, forest fire)

TOTAL \$ 659,616.64

Also, to order the Treasurer to sign payroll checks dated December 26, 2013. Actual amounts paid and reports backing up the numbers will be included on the Manifest Memo at the next scheduled Board meeting.

MEETING MINUTES

December 9, 2013 Minutes - Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Lacasse moved to approve the minutes of December 9, 2013 as amended. Passed 4-0-0

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PUBLIC HEARING:

Chairman Clow opened the public hearing to hear public testimony and comment regarding 1) up to \$85,000 to be expended toward the purchase of approximately 45 acres of land which abuts the old Center Square Cemetery on East Road from Gordon & Paula Brown, Tax Map 203-094 and 2) an additional \$25,000 to be expended toward the cost of purchasing the Shmid/Banks property on East Road.

Chairman Clow stated that we would discuss them separately and recognized Betty Straw to speak regarding the expenditure of \$85,000. Mrs. Straw stated that at a meeting of the Mildred Hall Bequest Advisory Committee on October 10, 2013 the committee voted to recommend to the Selectmen that up to \$85,000 be expended from the Charles and Ethel Eastman Fund toward the cost of purchasing approximately 45 acres of land which abuts the old Center Square Cemetery on East Road from Gordon and Paula Brown.

Jack Dearborn stated that he helped out in the process and that the money requested to be spent is for a relevant purpose. The town only has approximately five years left of available cemetery lots for sale. This property abuts the existing cemetery and he felt it would be a good use of the property. This lot would allow cemetery plots for the Town for probably the next 100 years. He would recommend to the Board that the purchase occur.

Janet Brown, Chairman of Cemetery Trustees appreciates the generosity of Gordon and Paula Brown. She felt the land is perfectly suitable for cemetery lots. She also wanted to thank Father McCausland for suggesting the green cemetery, she had never heard about it but thinks it is a great suggestion. Mrs. Brown thanked Mr. Dearborn for working with the Browns, the Historical Society, Burt Brown and especially the Mildred Hall Advisory committee for making this possible.

Wayne Hood, Cottage Road, President of the Weare Winter Wanderers Snowmobile Club is in favor of this purchase. His concern is the same for both parcels. There is an existing snowmobile trail on the properties that have existed for the past 40 years and he would like to see that the trail is able to continue. He realizes that with any cemetery construction the trail may have to be moved and the snowmobile club is willing to assist in the move, he is here to put the parties on notice that the trail is very important to the system and they would be willing to work with all parties to keep access.

Jack Dearborn responded that he has a letter from the Brown's to speak on their behalf. Mr. Dearborn stated that the Brown's will make certain that there is a stipulation that the existing allowed trail be kept and may have to be moved at a future date. The deed will be drafted to allow the Cemetery Trustees the ability to move the trail and work with the snowmobile club to make it happen.

Chairman Clow recognized Betty Straw to speak regarding the second part of the public hearing. Mrs. Straw stated that the Mildred Hall Bequest Advisory Committee met on November 13, 2013 and voted to recommend to the Selectmen that an additional \$25,000 be expended from the Charles and Ethel Eastman Fund toward the cost of purchasing the Shmid/Banks property on East Road. \$130,000 has already been approved making the total amount requested from the Charles and Ethel Eastman Fund \$155,000.

Wayne Hood reiterated the fact that there is an existing snowmobile trail on this property that they would like to see maintained once the purchase is made.

Paul Doscher, resident and Society for the Protection of NH Forests employee stated that they are the intended holder of the easement on part of the property. Mr. Doscher stated that generally conservation easements restrict subdivisions and development and leaves it up to the Town as the owners for approval for recreation purposes.

Steve Najjar, resident and member of the Conservation Commission stated that with easements the Town doesn't need to put any specific wording for the trail because the Town can grant that permission. Mr. Najjar stated that the Conservation Commission voted when they were asked to increase the amount of funding that

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providing additional funding will be contingent on the Commission being the managers of this conservation easement. The Conservation Commission wouldn't hold an easement. The Forest Society would hold the easement except for the 20 acres that will be left out for gravel and recreational purposes and the Conservation Commission would manage it.

Being there was no further questions or comments, Chairman Clow closed the public hearings at 7:48 PM.

Vice Chairman Butt stated that the Board discussed this in detail at the last meeting.

Vice Chairman Butt moved to spend up to \$85,000 from the Charles and Ethel Eastman Fund to purchase approximately 45 acres from Gordon and Paula Brown on tax map 203 lot 094; Selectman Lacasse seconded the motion. Passed 4-0-0.

Selectman Lacasse moved to spend an additional \$25,000 from the Charles and Ethel Eastman Fund toward the purchase of the Shmid/Banks Property on East Road; Vice Chairman Butt seconded the motion. Passed 4-0-0.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Chairman Clow opened the public hearing to hear public testimony in regards to changing the Ambulance Billing Standard Operating Guideline and EMS Rates.

Chairman Clow recognized Chief Bob Vezina to speak. Chief Vezina stated that the current policy allows residents to opt out of paying for ambulance service. Under the new policy everyone will be billed and expected to pay for ambulance service. Chief Vezina stated that they also have developed a hardship policy that would be implemented for anyone that cannot pay the ambulance bill. Chief Vezina pointed out that the current rates go back to the mid 2000's and they have a separate breakdown for resident versus non-resident. This eliminates that and it will make the billing more effective. The rates arrived at are the baseline that Medicare will accept plus 35%.

Selectman Lawton questioned that raising the rates may decrease revenue and increase the non-payments. Chief Vezina responded that currently there is a large sum of money on the table and that this policy will help with that. Vice Chairman Butt stated that the big concern is that people are just not paying. Chief Vezina stated that right now if a resident calls and says they can't pay the bill or they don't have insurance and there is no recourse for the Weare Fire Department for finding out why they are not being paid.

Vice Chairman Butt is more concerned with people getting insurance money directly from their insurance company and then not paying the Town. The new rate scale appears that we are raising the rates. Chief Vezina responded that they are trying to keep current with the industry accepted practices. 35% is not high, we have not changed the rates in the past 6 years whereas Medicare has changed it 6 times, some up and some down.

Ike Shepard, resident stated that he used to deal in the insurance world and that insurance companies pay usual and customary rates and that some rates get negotiated to a certain amount that they will accept as payment in full. If rates are too low you are leaving money on the table. He asked if the intention is to balance the bills. Chief Vezina responded typically not.

Chairman Clow stated that a good share of the money goes back into the EMS service for daytime coverage. Vice Chairman Butt stated that we are not trying to increase we are looking at the using the Medicare rates as a baseline and adding 35% for the new rate. Selectman Lacasse stated that he is concerned with the amount billed. He felt it should be what the service actually costs regardless of what Medicare spends.

Steve Roberts, resident and Board of Fireward member stated that they have spent a great deal of time before we hired Chief Vezina and the biggest problem is the residents being billed differently. This causes an issue and everyone should be billed fairly and not have a resident/non-resident fee schedule. Weare provides a high quality of service and we are not making money and would appreciate the Board's support.

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Chairman Clow stated that he believes the final result belongs with the Board of Firewards. Vice Chairman Butt agrees. Selectmen Lacasse suggested that we go to LGC for a quick answer before a motion or decision gets made. Chairman Clow stated that he feels we should just go directly to Town counsel and get clarification on this issue. Being there was no further questions or comments, Chairman Clow closed the public hearing at 9:02 PM.

DEPARTMENT HEAD AND COMMITTEE ITEMS: (no one present)

2014 BUDGET AND WARRANT DISCUSSION:

Town Administrator Naomi Bolton stated that the new 2014 proposed budget printout includes a few more of the changes that were discussed previously. There have been no changes made to the Warrant for this week. The Board discussed the year-end balance and discussed some possible year end one time purchases that could possibly be looked at depending upon the balance at the next meeting. Town Administrator Naomi Bolton stated that she has a price for a new server. Finance Administrator Tina Connor stated that the server crashed a couple of times last week and had to be re-booted twice. Spaulding Hill Networks provide a quote for a new HP server with Windows Server 08 edition. The current server was installed approximately 6 years ago. The Board felt that this should be done right away, but asked Town Administrator Bolton to make sure that the Finance program, Avitar program, and Town Clerk program can all run on Windows 08 prior to moving forward. **Chairman Clow moved to approve \$4,624.46 for a new HP Proliant Server for the Town Office as outlined in the quote dated December 10, 2013 from Spaulding Hill Networks, LLC; Selectman Lacasse seconded the motion. Passed 4-0-0.**

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Library Carpet – Town Administrator Bolton informed the Board that she received updated information from Chris Hague the Library Director stating she did get a quote on installing laminate versus carpeting. The cost for laminate is \$10,260. Ms. Hague spoke with a flooring specialist who cautioned her that laminate would be moisture-sensitive and while it can endure spills but constant moisture causes the locking sections to shift. They still have the \$1,000 to contribute to the cost of the flooring.

Selectman Lacasse moved to spend \$5,710 from the Government Building and Maintenance Fund for new carpet at the Library, Vice Chairman Butt seconded the motion. Passed 4-0-0.

Mutual Aid and Assistant Agreements – Mutual aid agreements for Goffstown and Hopkinton were sent out to the Board for review. The Board didn't have an issue with the agreement with the Town of Goffstown but would like more information regarding the Hopkinton agreement. Town Administrator Bolton will get more information for the Board.

Chairman Clow moved to sign the Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement with the Town of Goffstown for Building Inspector/Code Enforcement services; Selectman Lacasse seconded the motion. Passed 4-0-0.

NONPUBLIC SESSION:

Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Lacasse seconded to enter into non-public session @ 10:28 p.m. pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A:3II (a & c). A roll call vote was taken, Vice Chairman Butt – yes; Selectman Lawton – yes; Chairman Clow – yes, Selectman Lacasse – yes. Passed 4-0-0

Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Lacasse seconded to come out of non-public session @ 11:05 p.m. A roll call vote was taken, Vice Chairman Butt – yes; Selectman Lawton – yes; Chairman Clow – yes; Selectman Lacasse – yes. Passed 4-0-0

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Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Lacasse seconded to seal and restrict the minutes of the non-public session. Passed 4-0-0

ADJOURNMENT

A True Record.

Naomi L. Bolton, Recording Secretary